

Zion's Herald and Wesleyan Journal.

PUBLISHED BY THE BOSTON WESLEYAN ASSOCIATION, FOR THE NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCES OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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For Zion's Herald.

THOUGHTS ABOUT LAY DELEGATION.
That the demand for Lay Delegation will have to be met at least once more by the General Conference is evident. Ministers and laymen should examine the subject carefully, and be ready to act, deliberately and wisely, for God and the Church. I desire to offer in a brief form a few thoughts upon it.

The churches founded by the apostles were the first successful truly republican institutions, in the modern sense of the word, found among men. The apostles themselves, as well as laymen, were aristocrats, based on class distinctions. The truly Christian societies were genuine republics. Rich and poor, even master and slave, were equal in church privileges. They were not democracies, each independent of the other. The ministry of one was acknowledged by all, and they were in some way connected together by a common government. This union was in the earliest times undoubtedly more in sympathy than in law. They had no written discipline at first, but, as in substance, the Great Church was a federation of societies, each society electing, or in some way selecting, its own local officers, and receiving a ministracy approved by the apostles and their successors.

I suppose no candid student of ancient ecclesiastical history will dissent from this view. Moishe, Neander, Gieseler, and the primitive authorities from whom they quote, agree in affirming it. I believe that political freedom depends upon the spirit of equality, which is the natural spirit of the church, especially of the primitive Wesleyan Church. Our laymen and women are also invited to participate in our social religious meetings. The voice of the church sometimes is taken on business matters. Many laymen are appointed to offices of trust. But who appoints them? The Czar of Russia employs laymen. But who appoints them? The M. E. Church grows older and larger and wants a methodical system by which laymen, chosen by the societies, shall be invested with responsibility. Who appoints them? When we say this we are not finding fault with the past. Our fathers did their work well—work that we have not to do, but other work we have to do, that our children may also command us.

Objection 7. "This agitation will lead to a schism." Remember the Protestant Methodists and the Wesleyans!

We do remember, and their history is such as not to encourage imitation.

No man is competent to be a statesman who cannot "discern the signs of the times." These men who judge only by what took place in their time, and can only see what is before them, are never safe so little danger of occasion in the church as now. The "spirit of the age" is against it. All young men are asking who can come together. It is only old men, who recall former quarrels, who wish to stand apart.

We wish that the Wesleyans, the Evangelical Association, and the Protestants could in some way be brought into union with the M. E. Church. And the best men among them wish it too.

The laymen of Lay Delegation do not intend to be driven from the church. They are almost like them in spirit and purpose.

They were not so free at first as the earliest Christian churches. They did not choose their own stewards, trustees, and other church officers. But generally, or often, the pastor consulted public opinion in selecting them, and the pastor was so united in interest with the people generally as to make a judicious selection.

Still this is a grave defect, or rather, wrong in our economy. It is a sin to let the laymen of Lay Delegation be not competent to select its own stewards and trustees, without any nomination by the pastor.

I cannot help concluding, after much careful thought, that representatives from the people ought to have the privilege of attending our Annual Conferences, and joining in the expression and direction of public opinion there. What does a Conference but to decide what is to be done?

Now, if we could not have Annual Conferences, we should be as much at a loss as the laymen of Lay Delegation.

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Missions.

FROM OUR MISSION ROOMS IN NEW YORK, CHINA.—The following is from Rev. L. N. Wheeler, the superintendent of our printing press in Foochow, China, dated, Nov. 26, 1866:

"The mission press is now actively employed. Having now a printing office, we are able to print a New Testament in large character, we are now engaged upon a second edition to be printed in the same characters. We have a large number of the title-classes, a large number of which will be ready in a month or two. We expect soon to have ready twenty thousand copies of the title-classes, a large number of which will be ready in a month or two. We have also commenced putting through the press an 'Alphabetical Dictionary of the Chinese Language,' which we hope will long fit to be a desideratum. When completed it will be a bulky volume of eight hundred pages, containing all the characters in the literary world. Rev. R. S. Macay, D.D., of our mission, and Rev. C. C. Baldwin, of the A. S. F. M., are at work upon the index and illustrations for the first printed sheet. Bro. Sibley has lately returned from a long and successful tour of the cities of China. Dr. Macay and Bro. Baldwin are contemplating similar expeditions. All the brethren of the mission are engaged in a work, and we have made some progress. Inquirers are multiplying at stations which have not hitherto been fruitful of results, and additions to the church are constantly being made."

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.—We have received from Rev. P. K. Hye the following report from our mission in Copenhagen:

"The following are the statistics of our mission in Copenhagen:—Population, 1,000,000; Members, sixty-five; probationers, eighteen; total, eighty-three. The following are the statistics of our mission in the various parts of the Commonwealth, but it does not include six emigrants to America, nor four who moved to other places, besides those that have died. The number of converts, the number baptized, etc., by the administration of the Lord's Supper, ten times by the holding of twelve elders' meetings during the year. The school has been opened for two hundred and fifty class meetings. One hundred and sixty pastoral visits have been made. Sixty Sabbath schools, with officers and teachers, fourteen; children, two hundred and six; adults, Bible classes, eight; Sunday Schools, two."

SCANDINAVIAN MISSIONS.—We learn from a letter before us that the work of God is going forward in the congregation under the care of Rev. N. O. Westergaard, Christian Church, Copenhagen, who, for more than a dozen years, has labored for the church in this land, and still, since Christmas, has about fifty, all told, since Conference.

MISSISSIPPI INTELLIGENCE.

WEST TENNESSEE.—In East Tennessee the work of the gospel is progressing. Rev. T. H. Pearce, writes, "At a late meeting of the Presiding Elders it was found that there had been over six thousand conversions, and nearly as many accusations, within our bounds, (Holston Conference) since March, 1865. The work is rapidly distributed among the six districts. So far as we can learn, revivals have extended to almost every church in the Conference."

Rev. W. C. Graves, one of the Presiding Elders above referred to, in writing to the Western Christian Advocate, says, "It is a fact that the Legislature, as a result of the efforts of the House of Representatives, has established a law against the sale of intoxicating liquors, and that it is well and widely organized and uniformed, and that it will not be easily repealed or modified."

WESTERN ALABAMA.—Rev. J. B. F. Hill, having visited several points in the western portion of this State, writes to the Western Christian Advocate, as follows:

"I find the colored people are ready and anxiously waiting to receive our (the Methodist Episcopal) Church. At Eatonton and Springfield, at Clinton and Butler, and at other points, their gratitude is something at last is to be done for them. I have preached at these places, and have had many meetings with colored people, and am satisfied that four preachers can be employed here profitably. ... There, too, is a great cry for a school. At least ten schools are now gaily located in the little district over which I have traveled."

GEORGIA.—One of our missionaries in Georgia writes to the same paper as above.

"Allow me to make this suggestion: there are thousands of colored people in over this land who need to be taught, who would be glad to have me for schools and teachers. There are schools at some of the places under the auspices of the Friends, but they are not fully organized, and are not occupying all the places, even where they are in full operation. We have had three meetings, and are anxious to have more. ... There, too, is a great cry for a school. At least ten schools are now gaily located in the little district over which I have traveled."

In a still later letter the same brother writes:

"I am organizing my work, and have been successful in my districts, including Toccoa, Greenville, Cenopis, Eatonton, etc., and I find everywhere that the colored people are willing to receive the gospel, and are anxious to have me for schools and teachers. There are schools at some of the places under the auspices of the Friends, but they are not fully organized, and are not occupying all the places, even where they are in full operation. We have had three meetings, and are anxious to have more. ... There, too, is a great cry for a school. At least ten schools are now gaily located in the little district over which I have traveled."

THE GREAT REVIVAL IN SOUTH ASIA.—A still greater work to which we have called attention, and of which we speak with admiration, is the great missionary power. The history of modern missions seriously furnishes a more wonderful display of the divine mercy. Nearly all the native and European—mostly the former—have been converted, and are walking "in the full confidence of the Holy Ghost." The church is in all parts of the country, in its most glorious state. In Hindostan, Assam, and Yunnan.

IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.—In one instance, 115 professed to find peace in a single service. The following, an extract from a letter of Rev. Thomas Guard, one of the missionaries, will give an idea of the manner and spirit of the work:

"And the wave of life rolls on. Every circuit in which I have been has seen the visitation of the divine mercies. Many have been born into the church. Mrs. Guard attended a service at Headtown, some fifty miles from Grasshopper, and the result was that nearly all the people were converted. The sermon was on the Ten Commandments. I heard it in this city. It was a calm, clear, convincing exhortation, and the audience, though the entire audience, was well filled to attend and arouse the conscience. The audience numbered 500, and as people began to appear out, one and another, and others quitted the church, the service started and graced, breasts heaved—and agony sat upon the countenance. 'The silence which prevades the church,' said the minister, 'is the silence of the divine presence. For five hours the audience remained before God. Groans, sighs, prayers, praises, and petitions, united in form to that which some might have sounded, but which the ears of the exultant Saviour, a bairn sweeter, deeper, than any melody swelling from sphere or screen, could hear. The silence was a silence of God broadened out, in evoking order, and life, and love. And this a season of rapturous fellowship with God.'—Rev. Mr. Taylor, 'I never before experienced.'

"Our great-minded friends, in every strength for labor, having hand in, labored hard, and raised down his own features, 'O my Jesus, why was I afraid to trust in thee?' And another, who leaped upon a form and began preaching to his church, with matchless eloquence of gesture and utterance."

Communications.

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

Called into being by the Convention held at Cleveland, on the 28th of September, 1865, and entrusted to the direction of an Executive Committee, the American Christian Commission has been long settled but the general cause which it was in some way to promote, it has encountered those difficulties which are natural to any organization, and its relations to practical affairs are undetermined. The cause of the American Christian Commission, however, is a most general interest. In the subject of home evangelization, a most full and accurate knowledge of the principles involved, and the means of applying them to the church, and cost of labor, have been taken; and to advocate the employment of local agents, and to reach the church, for reaching the unevangelized or even neutralized.

During the past many facilities have been secured. Correspondence has been opened with the leaders of Christian work in all parts of Europe, and arrangements made for the sending of documents by means of the Smithsonian Institution. A valuable and constantly increasing list of correspondence, and religious work in this country, has been gained, and a good beginning made toward a library, and a collection of documents on every branch of the subject. Besides this, the re-

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BOSTON, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1867.

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LAY REPRESENTATION.

THE REAL QUESTION AT ISSUE STATED.

Bro. McDonald opens his second article as follows:

"My Error.—I understand you to claim that the laity are of natural right, entitled to representation in the legislative councils of the M. E. Church; that this is the 'American idea,' that every man has a natural right to his manumission and personal influence, and that all men are equal, and by natural right entitled to representation and the elective franchise, and to all the rights and immunities pertaining to their political, social, intellectual and spiritual well-being." A desire for lay representation in the councils of the church, is one of the logical results of the logic of the American idea.

"We have received document No. 1, giving an account of the formation and operations of the organization to the present time.

THE FRIENDS OF TEMPERANCE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

At a regular meeting of the Massachusetts Temperance Alliance on Wednesday, Jan. 29, the under-signed was instructed by a unanimous vote to represent the interests of the friends of temperance in the councils of the Commonwealth, in all its several parts, the following statement:

"Since the laity of the church, in its present condition, hold the power of action and every other right, and have established their organization, personal influence, and that all men are equal, and by natural right entitled to representation and the elective franchise, and to all the rights and immunities pertaining to their political, social, intellectual and spiritual well-being."

"We have received document No. 1, giving an account of the formation and operations of the organization to the present time.

HAVING failed to make myself fully understood, as it seems, by the writer of the above—for we take it that he is sincere, and not sophistical—we will try again to enlighten him. We do not claim in any way that the laity are entitled to be represented in the church in that place. The pastor of the Methodist Church, Rev. Mr. Austin, has heartily co-operated with him in the work. Over one hundred and fifty persons in the church have been baptized, and one hundred and fifty class meetings. We have a goodly record.

"At Chery Chay a good record is going on under the labors of Rev. G. F. Eaton; quite a number have been converted since the first of January, in Oxford, under the labors of Rev. Daniel E. Chapman, pastor of the Methodist Church in that place. The pastor of the Congregational Church, Rev. Mr. Austin, has heartily co-operated with him in the work. Over one hundred and fifty persons in the church have been baptized, and one hundred and fifty class meetings.

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ZION'S HERALD AND WESLEYAN JOURNAL, FEBRUARY 27, 1867.

good thoughts and encouraging words. Senator Yates was in the east and his appearance, and a beautiful basket of flowers was handed to him by the chairman from a fair lady donor. He was followed by Hon. Mr. Woodbridge, of Vermont, Mr. Dodge, of New York, Speaker Colfax, and others, and the meeting was kept up to near midnight with unflagging interest.

Many Committees have also of the unspecified cash collections taken in all our reported to the "Centenary" General Committee looked prompt means

of the General Committee for next Sabbath evening at the same place, which promises to be as great a success as the last one. The main effect of these meetings throughout the country cannot fail to tell favorably upon the cause of temperance everywhere.

C. C. B.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.

RELIGIOUS AND CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

Mosford.—Rev. Daniel Walt writes, Feb. 20th: "The year of 1866 and 1867 will in future be memorable in the history of the church. The work of God has been manifested here in an unusual manner in the reviving of Christians, and the conversion of many souls. The work has not been confined to any class; the old, the young, and middle-aged have shared its blessings, and turned unto the Lord. In the month of November about two thousand persons were converted with the M. E. Church. In December all the evangelical churches agreed to observe the week of prayer, as recommended by the Evangelical Alliance. The churches met in the spirit of unity. The watchmen saw eye to eye, and the members gave themselves to prayer. The work of God appeared in a glorious manner, and large numbers throughout the Union were drawn to the bosom of Christ, who for years had signed and prayed for a better day, saw the grace of God, and were glad. The meetings (union meetings) have been continued, with few exceptions, every evening, and the work still goes forward. How many have been saved, we can only say. No special pains have been taken to ascertain, as yet. The churches have been greatly strengthened, and the work is still in progress."

Chicopee.—The Springfield Union of Feb. 4th has the following item: "The Methodist Society on Perkins Street have been favored with an unusual degree of prosperity the past three years, during which they have been under the pastoral charge of Rev. J. L. H. H. He has had large additions to his church, the past winter."

Lisbon.—Rev. E. Fuller writes, Feb. 18th: "During this Conference year thus far God has blessed us with the conversion of twenty-four souls, most of them have recently been converted. The work has embraced a large number of young men and women, who promise future usefulness to the church in the place; nearly all have joined on probation with the church the past winter."

Oliver Hoyt.—James Bishop, C. N. North, W. C. Hoyt, Secretary.

PRAYER MEETING.

Pray for the success of the cause of temperance, that the Legislature will be induced to pass a law to prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors, and that we may see the day when our country will be a nation of temperance.

Episcopal Theological Seminary.—It is said that Dr. Huntington's church in this city, has given \$100,000 to found an Episcopal Theological school at Cambridge.

Pray.—Rev. Dr. W. C. Mather writes, "that God is graciously reviving the spirit of the church, forty persons have united on probation in Lisbon, and twenty-five have been added to the general suspension of the Union; we are only at the commencement of the work; every soul is at the altar."

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Poetry.

IN MEMORY OF ALBERT H. BROWN.

BY WILLIAM C. BROWN.

Sung at Church Streets, Boston, Feb. 10, 1867.

Father in heaven! The God of grace and love, Before whose throne we stand, our bairns bend; O, thy smile of pity from above! On every heart in mercy now descend.

He sleeps in Jesus. All his labors o'er— Gone every care, he slumbered every pain; O, death is come on the eternal sleep, Thou wilt forever with thy Saviour reign.

'Tis through the grave, dear brother, thou hast gone. The song of bliss, in realms above the sky; Farewell—till heard through earth, the trumpet's sound.

Small seems now to dwell with them on high. Almighty God! our slumbering souls awake! To deeds like those of our departed friend; Bid us, like him, the heavenly armor take.

And all the powers to thy secret service send. Father in heaven, thy God of grace and love, Before thy throne, we weep, we mourners bend; O, thy smile of pity from above, On every heart in mercy now descend.

Literary Notices.

Two Manuscripts, by the author of "John Ballou's Life," pp. 381. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by E. P. Dutton, Boston.

This book is elegant in its mechanical execution, handsomely bound, with white paper, and large, fair type; things quite too rare in this book-making age. The writer has already obtained celebrity as a masterly pen in the delineation of character, and in the prominence given to the virtuous and noble qualities of the heart. This volume will be found equal to any previous works of the author.

The CHILDREN OF LAKE HURON; or, the Cousins at Cloverside, by the author of "Enoch Remond's Life," slightly abridged from the London Edition, "With a New Introduction," pp. 273. Carlton & Porter. For sale by J. J. Megrue.

This is one of the books prepared for the Sunday School Library, and will be found interesting both in style and subject, as well as instructive and profitable to the reader.

CHARLES WESLEY. His Fines and LEAVES, 1800, pp. 399. New York: Hurd & Houghton.

This volume has already twice brought to the attention of our readers in the *Herald*. We are happy to learn that it is well worth the money and elegant taste. How important is the Spring opens its warm bosom and exhales its genial breath, that the angelic flowers should open around us their imitable beauties, and fill the surrounding atmosphere with their sweet fragrance! All the angels come by a proper invitation, and a suitable preparation for their sojourns with us during the vernal and summer time.

Our advice is, cultivate, and woo the flow- ers; let them, like the beauties of the earth, and ele- gant taste.

JOAN OF ARC. A biography, translated from the French by Sarah M. Grimké, 16mo., pp. 108. Boston, Adams & Co.

This is one of the books prepared for the Sunday School Library, and will be found interesting both in style and subject, as well as instructive and prof- itable to the reader.

THE CIRCLE OF BRILIANTS. A Collection of In- strumental Music for the Piano-Forte, pp. 224. Boston, H. H. Hough.

This is a volume of great variety is a fine collection of music, of which a great variety is given.

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WOODBURN GRANGE. A story of English Country Life, by William Howitt. Three English volumes complete in one, 12mo., pp. 402. Philadelphia, T. B. Macaulay & Brothers. For sale by E. P. Dutton & Co.

THE HUGUETON GALLEY SLAVE. Being the Auto- biography of a French Protestant condemned to the galleys for his religious opinions. Translated from the French of Jean Martelli, 12mo., pp. 240. New York, Lippincott & Holt; Boston, Lee & Shepard.

Health and Hygiene.

INJUDICIOUS USE OF MEDICINE.

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes once started the medical world in an uproar, by that, leaving no option, but to specifics, wine, and laudanum. "If the whole materia medica, as now used, could be sunk to the bottom of the sea, it would be all the better for mankind, and the world would be the better for it." But we do not think that the doctor need to have been so stern, and some of them were not. There is vastly more medicine used in the world than is necessary, and the practice of the profession, of quacks, old women, etc., so that the assertion of Dr. Holmes is undoubtedly true.

Medicines injudiciously used gives a fatal sense of security to many cases that, with judicious treatment, would have been favorably.

But this is not the point that we wish to illustrate now. It is rather the influence of bad medicine, pro- fessional, popular, and domestic, in producing ill health and disease.

In the treatment of disease the object of the judicious physician, not merely to carry the patient through the sick bed, but bring him out of it in the best possible condition. It is just here that inappropriate treatment most signifi- cantly affects the sick, the un- conscious, the ill health and future attack of disease. This may come from giving too much of those medicines which are appropriate to the case, but, in precision, as to the dose, and to the time of taking, though his blows may be directed right, may put so much into them as to do more harm than good.

Or again, medicines entirely unfit for the case may be given, increasing rather than lessening the disease.

Recovery may occur in all these cases, though the blundering medicinae may get all the credit.

But, in the case of the dangerous, the treatment is not wholly removed, but results are left here and there in the organs, or in the system as a whole, that impair the health and predispose to disease.

This often happens. An attack of disease, which might have been at once by proper treatment, affords to go on, and, in the end, in confined and severe sickness, and the medical attendant—quack or perhaps doctor—makes a large sum, and, with more, has his praises sung as a great man. Then the disease, though he may be a poor man, the rescue was effected by him, and the suffering from disease must leave residue that might have been escaped by a rapid and early recovery.

The number of instances of advertizing of no- trums shows how much of random dosing is done independent of medical attendance. True, some are remedial, for the same reason that some would be to a poor man. Then, though he may be a poor man, the rescue was effected by him, and the suffering from disease must leave residue that might have been escaped by a rapid and early recovery.

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